GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3172
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
ADULTERATION IN FOOD ITEMS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several adulterated and fake brands of food items are being sold in the country and are injurious to health;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of the machinery put in place for the monitoring of the food items;

(d) if so, the outcome of the said review during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government based on the outcome?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (e) The enforcement of the PFA Act 1954 and Rules 1955 is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. The enforcement staff draw random samples of all food items from all levels viz Manufacturers/Wholesalers/Retailers and as per information provided by them , the percentage of adulterated/ misbranded food articles sold in the markets during the years 2001 to 2004 is as under:-

Year	% of adulteration
2001	11.79
2002	11.71
2003	11.03
2004	9.39

The States/U. Ts are advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality of food items sold in the markets and take penal action where the sample of food articles are not found conforming to the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed there under.

Central assistance in terms of civil works in laboratoriesJaboratory equipments and orientation training for the enforcement staff and Public analysts are being provided under the world Bank aided capacity Building Project for food safety and Quality Control of Drugs.